

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 089719

FOLLOWING REPEAT LIBREVILLE 0978 ACTION SECSTATE INFO KINHASA
PARIS USUN NEW YORK 18 APR 77

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0978

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CF, GB, US

SUBJ: CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE REPORTEDLY SEEKING NEW TIES
WITH US

SUMMARY: GABONESE PRESIDENT BONGO REPORTS THAT GOCB STRONGLY
WISHES RE-ESTABLISH TIES WITH USG AND IS LIKELY TAKE INITIA-
TIVE SHORTLY TO THIS END. END SUMMARY.

1. IN MEETING APRIL 18, PRESIDENT BONGO REPORTED THAT HE
HAD RECEIVED VISIT FROM GOCB AMBASSADOR TO UN MONDJO
(PHONETIC), WHO REITERATED TO HIM STRONG GOCB DESIRE IMPROVE
RELATIONSWITH US.BONGO SAID HE HAS ALSO DISCUSSED SUBJECT
IN CLP

IYS WITH NEW CONGO/B CHIEF OF STATE YHOMBY,
TELLING LATTER THAT GABON IS PREPARED TO HELP SO LONG AS
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GOCB WILL COMMIT ITSELF NOT TO UNDERMINE GABONESE EFFORTS
BY CASUAL ATTACKS ON US POLICY. ACCORDING BONGO, HE HAS
NOW RECEIVED CONFIRMING LETTER FROM YHOMBY CONTAINING
ASSURANCES THAT GOCB WILL BEHAVE CIRCUMSPECTLY IN THIS REGARD,
AND EVIDENTLY IMPLYING THAT CONGOLESE WILL MAKE
APPROACH IN NEAR FUTURE TO USG.

2. BY WAY OF BACKGROUND, BONGO CONFIRMED STORIES CIRCULATING ELSEWHERE THAT HE HAD ADVISED GOCB "COMMITTEE OF ELEVEN" FOLLOWING DEATH OF NGOUABI TO CHOOSE YHOMBY RATHER THAN SASSOU AS CHIEF OF STATE. BONGO DESCRIBED LATTER AS YOUNGER AND MORE IDEOLOGICALLY INCLINED THAN YHOMBY, AND SAID HE HAD TOLD CONGOLESE THAT YHOMBY WOULD INSPIRE GREATER CONFIDENCE ON PART OF WESTERN STATES TO WHICH THEY WERE LOOKING FOR ECONOMIC HELP. PRESIDENT ADDED PARENTHETICALLY THAT YHOMBY IS ACCUSED OF BEING CAPITALIST INTERESTED ONLY IN MONEY AND SASSOU HAS MADE ENEMIES BY CHASING WRONG WOMEN, IMPLYING THAT NEITHER INSPIRES GREAT CONFIDENCE. BONGO CONCLUDED THAT SASSOU IS CURRENTLY BEING PROTECTED BY CUBAN DETACHMENT WHILE YHOMBY IS RELYING ON CONGOLESE MEMBERS OF PRESIDENTIAL GUARD, SITUATION WHICH CONTAINS SEEDS OF POTENTIAL FUTURE INSTABILITY.

3. COMMENT: BONGO GAVE NO INDICATION THAT HE IS PLANNING NEW INITIATIVES WITH USG ON BEHALF OF CONGOLESE, WHOM HE EVIDENTLY EXPECTS TO MAKE APPROACHES ON THEIR OWN. STEIGMAN.
UNQUOTE VANCE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Film Number: D770138-0673
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
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